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Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team

A Summary of the Fifth Meeting

Holiday Inn – Inner Harbor

Baltimore, Maryland

April 23 – 25, 2002

Prepared by
Jim Feldt and Hans Neuhauser
Facilitators

May 20, 2002

Introduction

The fifth meeting of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (TRT) was held at the Holiday Inn – Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland on April 23 – 25, 2002. Kathy Wang of the NMFS Southeast Regional Office convened the meeting.

Participants

TRT Members and Alternates

TRT members and alternates present for the fifth meeting were as follows: David A. Beresoff, Tina Berger, Paul Biermann, David Cupka, Joe DeAlteris, Lewis Gillingham, Charlotte Gray, Mike Greco, Bruce A. Halgren, Chris Hickman, Rick Marks, William McLellan, Emily Menashes, Fentress Munden, Robert E. Munson, Margaret Murphy, William Outten, Carl A. Poppell, Tim Ragen, Richard Seagraves, W. Mark Swingle, Christopher David Walker, Kathy Wang, Robert E. West, David Woolman, Nina M. Young, Sharon Young, Tara Cox (alternate for Andrew Read), Doug Haymans (alternate for Barb Zoodsma), Russell Hudson (alternate for Mike Baker), Chris Ludford (alternate for Peter Nixon), Jeff Oden (alternate for Douglas Guthrie), and Dave Swanner (alternate for Mike Peele).

TRT members who were not present and not represented by an alternate were Gordon Colvin, Martin Dunson, Fulton Love, Richard Luedtke, Dave Martin, Ken Moran, John Reynolds, Sentiel “Butch” Rommel, Jerry Schill, Leonard Voss, A. D. Willis, and Christopher Zeman.

A cumulative record of attendance at the BDTRT meetings is presented in Appendix 1. Contact information for the alternates in attendance is provided in Appendix 2.

Presenters and Facilitators

The presenters at the fifth meeting were Aleta A. Hohn and Marjorie Rossman of NMFS. The facilitators were Jim Feldt and Hans Neuhauser.

Observers

Registered observers were: Sue Barco (VMSM); Sean Bennett (US Coast Guard); Barbie Byrd (NOAA/NMFS); Shepherd Grimes (NOAA GCSE); Dan Hytrek (NOAA GCF); Katie Moore (NMFS); Jacqueline Poppell (Georgia Watermen’s Assoc.); Barbara Schroeder (NMFS) and Donna Wieting (NMFS).

Announcements

Kathy Wang provided an overview of the timeline for the development of the Take Reduction Plan as defined in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. These timelines included:

May 7, 2002: Deadline for submittal of the recommendations from the BDTRT

July 7: Publication of the Draft Proposed Rule in the *Federal Register* followed by a 90-day comment period.

October 7: End of public comment period

December 7: Publication of the Final Rule in the *Federal Register*

Jim Feldt and Hans Neuhauser reminded the team of the goal of this session – to finalize the team’s recommendations – and the meeting objectives: to develop recommendations for each management unit, to develop a list of consensus and non-consensus items and to finalize the team’s recommendations in written format.

Working Groups, Working Group Reports and Plenary Sessions

During the three day meeting, working groups would report to the entire team on their progress towards achieving consensus on measures to reduce take of bottlenose dolphin. The team would then react, providing comments and asking questions. Each working group would then reconvene and continue discussions with the team’s comments in mind. This cycle of working groups, reports and responses was repeated several times over the course of the three days.

The Team submitted a consensus agreement to NMFS. The final document, entitled “Consensus Recommendations for a Western North Atlantic Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan from the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team; May 7, 2002,” is available under separate cover from Katie Moore, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, telephone 727-570-5312, e-mail: Katie.Moore@noaa.com

Thanks

At the end of the meeting, Kathy Wang thanked the members of the BDTRT for their hard work and successful results. She also thanked Aleta Hohn, Debi Palka, Marjorie Rossman and their colleagues and staff for their critically important support role to the team.

Next Meeting of the Take Reduction Team

The next meeting of the Take Reduction Team will take place during the public comment period on the Draft Proposed Rule, anticipated to be sometime between July 7 and October 7, 2002. As NMFS gets closer to publishing the Draft Proposed Rule in the *Federal Register*, the Team members will be polled to determine the best dates for the next TRT meeting.

In an informal opinion poll, participants in the fifth TRT meeting selected Washington, DC and Virginia Beach, Virginia as the preferred sites for the next meeting with

Savannah, Georgia third. The final selection of the site will depend on the dates selected and the availability of suitable accommodations and meeting sites.

Public Comment

Opportunities for public comment were provided at the end of each day's deliberations on April 23, 24 and 25. No public comment was provided.

Thank You Letter to The National Baltimore Aquarium

The BDTRT members signed a letter to the National Baltimore Aquarium, thanking them for the behind-the-scenes tour on April 23.

Letter to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

On behalf of the BDTRT, Jim Feldt sent a letter to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. The text follows:

Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team
c/o The Georgia Environmental Policy Institute
380 Meigs St. Athens, GA 30601
706.546.7507

April 25, 2001

Mr. William Pruitt
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd floor
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Mr. Pruitt,

At the request of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team we are seeking a temporary permit to demonstrate a nighttime proximity rule for vessels and gill net gear recommended as a mitigation measure to reduce bottlenose dolphin bycatch in coastal waters using webbing of 5 inches or greater.

The mitigation measure would be effective from New Jersey through North Carolina state waters. Because the team intends to implement these measures this winter, we need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the measure as soon as possible. In order to effectively demonstrate how the proximity rule might be implemented across all states and because net length requirements differ from state to state, we require the ability to set nets greater than 1200' for the purposes of this limited demonstration. The gear in question is used to prosecute the smooth dogfish fishery, which is currently active in Virginia. We hope to perform the demonstration before the end of May and must expedite the permit process. We expect that we would require less than five days of

fishing using one vessel (Chris Walker of Chincoteague has agreed to perform the demonstration).

This demonstration is requested by members of the Take Reduction Team and the National Marine Fisheries Service (see attached letters of support).

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jim Feldt and Hans Neuhauser, facilitators
Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team

Cc: Jack Travelstead, VMRC, Lewis Gillingham, VMRC, Kathy Wang, NMFS, Emily Menashes, NMFS, and Chris Walker

Appendix 1: Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team Attendance Report

Last Name	First Name	Nov 6-8	Jan 23-25	Feb 27-Mar 1	Mar 27-28	Apr 23-25
Baker	Mike			Hudson	Hudson	Hudson
Beresoff	David A.	T	T	T	T	T
Berger	Tina	T	T	T	T	T
Biermann	Paul	T	T	T	T	T
Colvin	Gordon					
Cupka	David	T		T	T	T
DeAlteris	Joseph	T	T		T	T
Dunson	Martin					
Gillingham	Lewis S.	T	T	T	T	T
m						
Gray	Charlotte	T	T		T	T
Greco	Mike	T	T	T	T	T
Guthrie	Douglas	Oden	Oden	Oden	Oden	Oden
Halgren	Bruce A.	T	T	T	T	T
Hickman	Chris	T	T	T	T	T
Love	Fulton					
Luedtke	Richard		T	T		
Marks	Rick E.	T	T		T	T
Martin	Dave					
McLellan	William	T	T	Friedleander	T	T
Menashes	Emily	T	T	T	T	T
Moran	Ken					
Munden	Fentress	T	T	T	T	T

	"Red"					
Munson	Robert E.	T	T	T	T	T
Murphy	Margaret	T	T	T	T	T
Nixon	Peter		Ludford	Ludford		Ludford
Outten	William	T	T	T	T	T
Peele	Mike	Swanner	Swanner	Swanner	Swanner	Swanner
Poppell	Carl A.		T	T	T	T
Ragen	Tim	T	T	T	T	T
Read	Andrew	T	T	T	T	Cox
Reynolds	John		T	T	T	
Rommel	Sentiel	T	T		T	
	"Butch"					
Schill	Jerry	Hitchcoc	Hitchcoc			
		k	k			
Seagraves	Richard		T	T	T	T
Swingle	W. Mark	T	T	T	T	T
Voss	Leonard	T		T		
Walker	Christopher	T	T			T
Wang	Kathy	T	T	T	T	T
West	Robert A.	T	T	T	T	T
Willis	A.D. (Drew)	T		T		
Woolman	David	T	T	T	T	T
Young	Nina M.	T	T	T	T	T
Young	Sharon	T	T	T	T	T
Zeman	Christopher	Kline				
Zoodsma	Barb			Haymans	Haymans	Haymans

T = Team member attended

A = Alternate attended

Appendix 2: Alternates attending the April 23-25, 2002, Meeting

Tara Cox
(Alternate for Andrew Read)

Doug Haymans
(Alternate for Barb Zoodsma)

Russell Hudson
(Alternate to Mike Baker)

Chris Ludford
(Alternate to Peter Nixon)

Jeff Oden
(Alternate for Douglas Guthrie)

Dave Swanner
(Alternate to Mike Peele)